

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of the production of a nanoparticle which comprises a step of forming a nanoparticle including a compound of a metal ion in a cavity part of a protein, in a solution containing the protein having the cavity part therein, said the metal ion, and a carbonate ion and/or a hydrogen carbonate ion,

wherein said metal ion is any one of a nickel ion (Ni^{2+}), a chromium ion (Cr^{2+}) or a copper ion (Cu^{2+}), and

said solution comprises a carbonate ion and/or a hydrogen carbonate ion produced by bubbling carbon dioxide thereto.

2. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a hydroxide.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said metal ion is a nickel ion.

5. (Currently amended) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said metal ion is a chromium ion.

6. (Currently amended) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said metal ion is a copper ion.

7. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 2, wherein pH of said solution is approximately equal to a precipitation point of a hydroxide of said metal ion.

8. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 4, wherein pH of said solution is 8 or greater and 9 or less.

9. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 4, wherein said solution further comprises an ammonium ion.

10. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 9, wherein pH of said solution is greater than 8.3 and equal to or less than 8.65.

11. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1, wherein said protein is at least one of apoferritin, Dps protein, CCMV protein, TMV protein or a heat shock protein.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of the production of a nanoparticle according to claim 1 further comprise a step of eliminating the protein by a heat treatment after forming said nanoparticle.

14-15. (Canceled)